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SUBJECT: PER – SAFETY AND HEALTH

Purpose. To provide information on Tractor Safety submitted by Donna Klapperich, Soil Conservation Technician from Dodge Center.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

What is the most used vehicle on a farm? What has the most farm fatalities and serve injuries that occur due to improper use and knowledge of? Farm Tractors! To avoid major accidents, follow safe management principles and implement a tractor safety program on your farm.

- Have a “safety first” attitude. Follow safe work practices all the time and set a good example for others, especially the younger generation that will be using this equipment in the future.
- Make sure you stay away from moving parts. Be aware of pinch points, shear points, wrap points, pull-in areas, thrown objects, crush points, stored energy hazards and freewheeling parts.
- Be physically and mentally fit when operating tractors. Fatigue, stress, medication, alcohol and drugs can detract from safe tractor operation.
- Read operator’s manual and warning decals. Pay attention to safety information. They are there for a reason.
- Equip the tractor with Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) and wear seat belts.
- Inspect the tractor for any hazards and correct them before operating.
- Make sure everyone who operates a tractor has received training and is physically able to operate it safely.
- Shut down equipment, turn off engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.
- Keep bystanders and others away from tractor operation area. Do not allow “extra riders,” especially children.

Before Field Work Inspect the Following:

- ✓ Is Rollover Protective Structures in place?
- ✓ Check seat belts, and use them!

- ✓ Is the PTO master shield and other guards in place?
- ✓ Is the operator's platform clear of debris?
- ✓ Is a reflective "Slow Moving Vehicle" emblem posted?
- ✓ Are lights and flashers working properly?
- ✓ Are tires properly inflated?
- ✓ Are brakes working correctly?
- ✓ Is everything properly greased?
- ✓ Are hydraulics free from leaks?
- ✓ Is a 20lb. "ABC" fire extinguisher in place?
- ✓ Is there an up-to-date first aid kit in the tractor?

Now that harvest season has begun, this is a good reminder for anyone who works with or around tractors so be responsible and alert when driving a tractor!

Information taken from the National Safety Council.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

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